

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #9

## Bad Luck in Hong Kong

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Jyutping
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 9

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 做咩咁愁啊? 黑口黑面, 俾女飛啊?
2. B: 咪玩啦, 我近排好黑仔啊
3. A: 講嚟聽下, 等我笑下。
4. B: 上個禮拜我女朋友生日, 但我忙得好交關, 唔記得咗。
5. A: 死硬啦你。咁大鑊。
6. B: 我想買份禮物補鑊㗎, 點知個銀包俾人偷咗。
7. A: 嗯, 望落你的確印堂發黑, 返去用碌柚葉冲涼啦。

## JYUTPING

1. A: zou6 me1 gam3 sau4 aa3? haak1 hau2 haak1 min6, bei2 nei2 fei1 aa4?
2. B: mai6 waan2 laa1, ngo5 gan6 paai2 hou2 haak1 zai2 aa3.
3. A: gong2 lai4 teng1 haa5,dang2 ngo5 siu3 haa5.
4. B: Soeng6 go3 lai5 baai3 ngo5 nei5 pang4 jau5 saang1 jat6, daan6 ngo5 mong4 dak1 hou2 gaau1 gwaan1, m4 gei3 dak1 zo2.
5. A: sei2 ngaang6 laa1 nei5. gam3 daai6 wok6.
6. B: ngo5 soeng2 maai5 fan6 lai5 mat6 bou2 wok6. dim2 zi1 go3 ngan4 baau1 bei2 jan4 tau1 zo2.

CONT'D OVER

7. A: ng6, mong6 lok6 nei5 dik1 kok3 jan3 tong4 faat3 haak1, faan1  
heoi3 jung6 luk1 jau2 jip6 cung1 loeng4 laa1.

## ENGLISH

1. A: Why so worried? And what's with the long face? Your girlfriend dump you?
2. B: Stop kidding around. I've had enough bad luck lately.
3. A: Tell me about it. I can laugh about it.
4. B: It was my girlfriend's birthday last week. But I was tied up at work and forgot.
5. A: You're dead. That's pretty serious.
6. B: I wanted to buy her a present to make it up to her, but my wallet was stolen.
7. A: Hmm. Your glabella does look dark. Go home and take a pomelo-leaf bath!

## VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
黑口黑面	hak1 hau2 hak1 min6	long face	noun
印堂	jan3 tong4	glabella	noun
黑仔	hak1 zai2	unfortunate	adj

交關	gaau1 gwaan1	very serious	adj
飛	fei1	to dump	verb
大鑊	daai6 wok6	really serious	adj
補鑊	bou2 wok6	to make up	verb
碌柚叶	luk1 jau2 hip3	pomelo leaves	noun
冲凉	cung1 loeng4	to bathe	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>成日黑口黑面，怪唔之得有朋友啦。</p> <p><i>sing4 jat6 haak1 hau2 haak1 min6, gwaai3 m4 zi1 dak1 mou5 pang4 jau5 laa1</i></p> <p>With that long face all the time, no wonder you don't have friends.</p>	<p>睇相佬話我印堂發黑，必有大難。</p> <p><i>tai2 soeng3 lou2 waa6 ngo5 jan3 tong4 faat3 haak1, bit1 jau5 daai6 naan3.</i></p> <p>The fortune teller says my gabella has turned dark and something bad will definitely happen to me.</p>
<p>最近好黑仔，唔敢過澳門。</p> <p><i>zeoi3 gan6 hou2 haak1 zai2, m4 gam2 gwo3 ou3 mun2.</i></p> <p>I've been really unfortunate lately. Don't expect me in Macau anytime soon.</p>	<p>今次考試難得好交關，合格都成問題。</p> <p><i>gam1 ci3 haau2 si5 naan4 dak1 hou2 gaau1 gwaan1, hap6 gaak3 dou1 sing4 man6 tai4.</i></p> <p>This exam is really difficult, I'm afraid that I cannot even pass.</p>
<p>你憑咩飛我啊？</p> <p><i>nei5 pang4 me1 fei1 ngo5 aa3</i></p> <p>Who are you to dump me?</p>	<p>我都唔知會搞到咁大鑊㗎。</p> <p><i>ngo5 dou1 m4 zi1 wui5 gaau2 dou3 gam3 daai6 wok6 gaa2</i></p> <p>I didn't know it would make such a big mess.</p>

人都走咗咯，而家想補鑊都嚟唔切  
啦。

*jan4 dou1 zau2 zo2 lok3, ji4 gaa1 soeng2 bou2  
wok6 dou1 lai4 m4 cit3 laa1*

He's gone. It's too late to make it up now.

用碌柚葉沖涼可以去衰氣。

*jung6 luk1 jau2 jip6 cung1 loeng4 ho2 ji5 heoi3  
seoi1 hei3*

Bathing with pomelo leaves can wash  
away your misfortune.

我去沖個涼先。

*ngo5 heoi3 cung1 go3 loeng4 sin1*

I'm going to take a shower first.

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Cantonese Superstitions

咪玩啦，我近排好黑仔啊

*mai6 waan2 laa1, ngo5 gan6 paai2 hou2 haak1 zai2 aa3.*

"Stop kidding around. I've had enough bad luck lately."

In this lesson, we want to take a break from grammar and we want to talk a bit about some Cantonese superstitions. Apparently, there are various ways of getting rid of bad luck here in Hong Kong, which may not be obvious. And we are not just talking about the bath, e.g. you can wear a *fu* (blessing) on your neck, or put it in your wallet. It is a smallish square golden shiny card; sometimes it has an image of Buddha on it. There's nothing really like this such of thing in English; maybe a rabbit foot is the closest because it doesn't actively do anything. It just passively brings good luck if you've got it on your purse. So, when you see people selling these tiny golden cards, you can buy one and put it in your wallet and watch your luck change. You might wonder, do Cantonese people have the same bad luck approach to opening umbrellas in doors in the west? The fact is, no, but there is something strange with mirrors—you can't put them in your bedroom facing the bed. You could put them in your bedroom as long as the reflection of the bed is not in the mirror.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Superstitions in Hong Kong

Superstitions in Hong Kong are everywhere. Numbers, colors, fruits, clocks, and flowers all have a certain reputation for good or ill, often because they sound like other words. From people's home, offices, streets, to the way people dress and choose their spouse. Anything with the number 4 is eliminated; everyone hates the number 4 because it sounds like the word for "death." Sixes, eights, and nines are prized because they sound, respectively, like "success," "fortune," and "long-lasting." Assessing the Feng Shui (an ancient system of man living in harmony with nature) is a staple before you buy an apartment; and getting married to a person who has a 6-year age difference would bring bad luck.